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AN ACT

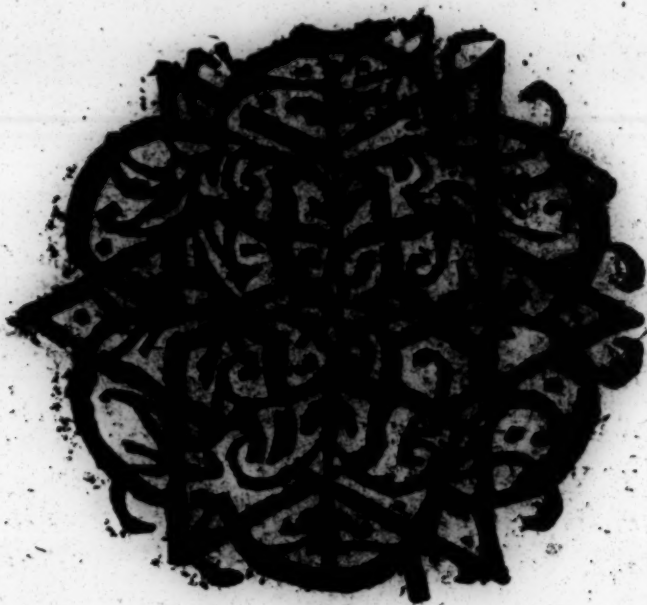
FOR

Discovering, Convicting, & Repressing

OF

Popish Recusants.

At the Parliament begun at *Westminster*, the se-
venteenth day of *September*, An. Dom. 1656.



Re-printed at *Aberden*, by JAMES BROWN.

1657.

fully affected, And

AN ACT

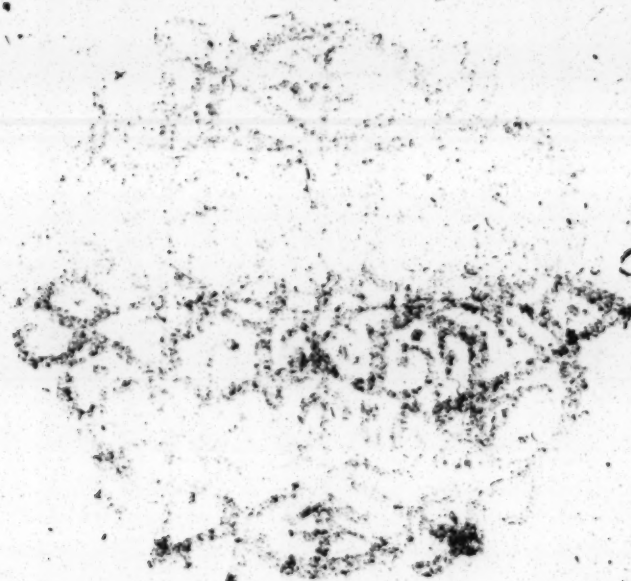
for the better governing & regulating

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Police

And the better regulating the same
in the City of London



AN ACT

FOR

Discovering, Convicting, and Repressing

OF

Popish Recusants.

Whereas, as there is of late a great increase of Popish Recusants within this Commonwealth, occasioned by the neglect of putting the laws in execution against them, by reason whereof great danger may follow thereupon to the Publick Peace; They being persons very active in mischievous Plots & Conspiracies, as appears by their late Barbarous and bloody Rebellion and Cruelties in Ireland & this Nation: For prevention therefore of the rise & growth of so great a Mischief, His Highness the Lord Protector, and the Parliament of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, & Ireland, Do declare and enact, And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Iustices of Assize & Goal-delivery, & all Iustices of Peace in their open Quarter Sessions of peace, within the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, & Ireland that give in Charge in to the Grand Iuries, diligently to enquire, & present the Names of all such persons, being of the age of sixteen years, as are suspected or reputed to be Papists, or popishly affected, And

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that upon every such presentment, the Iustices of Assize and Goal-delivery, & Iustices of the Peace shall in open Sessions make Proclamations by which it shall be commanded, that every person so presented as aforesaid, shall personally appeare at the next Assizes & general Goal-delivery, or at the next Generall Quarter-Sessions respectively, to be holden for the Shire, Division, Limit or Liberty, & there to take and subscribe the Oath of Abjuration; The form of which Oath hereafter followeth.

I A. B. do abjure and renounce the Popes Supremacy and Authority over the Catholique Church in generall, and over my self in particular: And I do believe the Church of Rome is not the true Church; And that there is not any Transubstantiation in the Sacrament of the LORDS Supper, or in the Elements of Bread & Wine, after consecration thereof; by any person whatsoever. And I do also believe that there is not any Purgatory. And that the Consecrated Host, Crucifixes or Images, ought not be worshipped, neither that any Worship is due unto any of them; And I also believe that Salvation cannot be merited by Works; And I do sincerely Esteem and Declare, That the Pope neither of himself, nor by any Authority of the Church or Sea of Rome, or by any other means with any other, hath power or authority to depose the Chief Magistrate of these Nations, or to dispose of any the Countreies or Territories therunto belonging, or to Authorize any Forreigne Prince or State to invade or annoy him or them or to discharge any of the People of these Nations from their Obedience to the Chief Magistrate or to give Licence or leave to any of the said people to bear Arms, raise tumults, or to offer any violence or hurt to the person of the said Chief Magistrate or to the State or Government of these Nations, or to any of the people thereof. And I do further swear, That I do from my heart abhor, detest, and abjure this damnable Doctrine and Pusion, That Princes, Rulers or Governours, which be Excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, may by vertue of such

such Excommunication or deprivation, be killed, murdered or deposed from their Rule or Government, or any outrage or violence done unto them by the people that are under them, or by any other whatsoever upon such pretence. And I do further swear, That I do believe that the Pope or Bishop of Rome, hath no Authority, Power or Jurisdiction whatsoever within England, Scotland and Ireland, or any or either of them, or the Dominions or Territories belonging to them, or any or either of them; And all Doctrines in affirmation of the said points, I do abjure and renounce without any equivocation, mentall reservation, or secretes evasion whatsoever, taking the words by me spoken according to the cōmon & usual meaning of them; And I do believe no power derived from the Pope or Church of Rome, or any other person, can absolve me from this my Oath, and I do renounce all Pardons and Dispensations to the contrary: So help me God.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if at such next Assizes, and generall Goal-delivery, or at such next Quarter Sessions to be holden as aforesaid, the same person so Proclaimed, shall not make appearance upon Record, or in open Sessions take and subscribe the said Oath, (which Oath the said Iustices respectively are hereby Impowred to administer) Then vpon such default, being Recorded, such person so making default, shall be adjudged a Popish Recusant, convict to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That four times in every year, viz. once in every Quarter, & eight and twenty days at the least before the beginning of the Quarter-Sessions of Peace, to be holden for any County, Division, Limit, or Liberty, the respective Iustices of the Peace for such County, Division, Limit, or Liberty, or two or more of them, shall issue their Warrants to all the Constables, and Church-wardens of every Parish, Chappell, Town, and Ham-

Let within such their respective County, Division, Limit, and
 Liberty, requiring them, at a certain day and place to be men-
 tioned in such Warrants, which day shall be at least fourteen
 dayes before such Quarter-Sessions, to present, upon their
 Oaths, unto the said Iustices, the Names, Surnames, Additions,
 and places of abode, of all such persons, being of the Age of
 sixteen years, as are suspected or reputed to be Papists, or Po-
 pishly affected: And that upon every such Presentment upon
 Oath, (which Oath the said Iustices are hereby Impowred to
 administer) such Iustices shall forthwith issue their Warrants
 to the Constables, thereby requiring them to summon every
 such person so Presented, either by delivering unto every of
 them a Note in writing, or leaving the same at their dwelling
 house, or usuall place of abode of such person so presented,
 to appeare personally at the next Quarter-sessions to be hold-
 den for such County, Division, Limit, or Liberty respectively
 And that at such next Quarter-sessions, the said Iustices of the
 Peace, unto whom any such Presentment shall be made, shall
 deliver every such Presentment in open Sessions, to be Recor-
 ded; And all such Constables unto whom any such warrant
 of Summons shall be directed, shall likewise then and there,
 return such their respective warrants, to be entred upon Re-
 cord, and make Oath of the due execution thereof, which
 Oath the said Iustices of Peace in their Quarter-Sessions, are
 hereby impowred to administer: And if at such Quarter-
 Sessions, such person so summoned as aforesaid, shall not mak
 appearance upon Record, and in open Sessions, take and sub-
 scribe the said Oath, then the Iustices shall in open Sessions
 make Proclamation by which it shall be commanded, That
 every person so Presented and summoned as aforesaid, shall
 personally appear at the next Quarter-Sessions to be holden
 for the said County, Division, Limit, or Liberty respectively,
 then and there to take the said Oath; And if at such next Quar-
 ter-Sessions

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Sessions to be holden as aforesaid, any such person so proclaimed, shall not make appearance upon Record, and in open Sessions take and subscribe the said Oath, then upon such default recorded, such person so making default, shall be adjudged a Popish Recusant convict, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the Iustices of Peace within any County, Division, Limit, or Liberty, or any two or more of them, shall suspect any person being of the age of sixteen years, to be a Papist, or popish, lie affected, it shall be lawfull for such Iustices, by their warrants, to send for, & to cause every such person so suspected, to become bound by Recognizance, in the sum of One hundredth Pounds, to appear at the next Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for the said County, Division, Limit, or Liberty respectively, then and there to subscribe the said Oath: And if such Person so suspected, shall refuse to become so bound, then it shall be lawfull unto such Iustices, to commit such person so suspected, unto safe Custody, there to remain without Bail or Mainprise, untill such next Quarter-Sessions, to be holden as aforesaid: And if at such next Quarter-Sessions, the same person so bound or Imprisoned, shall not make appearance upon Record, and in open Sessions take & subscribe the said Oath, then upon such default Recorded, such Person so making default, shall be adjudged a Popish Recusant convict to all intents and purposes whatsoever: And if such Person so suspected, shall not upon any such Warrant be apprehended and brought before such Iustices, to become bound by Recognizance as aforesaid, then such Iustices shall and may, at the next Quarter-Sessions, to be holden as aforesaid, present the names of every such person so by them suspected, and upon such Presentment Recorded, the Iustices shall in open Sessions make Proclamation, by which it shall be commanded,

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And, That every such Person so Presented, shall at the next Quarter-Sessions, to be holden as aforesaid, make appearance upon Record, and then and there in open Sessions, take & subscribe the said Oath: And if at the then next Quarter-Sessions, to be holden as aforesaid, the same Person so proclaimed shall not make his appearance upon Record, and in open Court take and subscribe the said Oath, Then upon such default Recorded, such Person so making default, shall bee adjudged a Popish Recusant convict to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawfull to his Highnesse the Lord Protector, and his Successors, by Proccesse out of the Court of Exchequer, To Seize, & take into His, and their hands, to the use of the Commonwealth, Two parts, in three parts to be divided, of all the Debts, Goods & Chattels of every person any wayes so Convict of Popish Recusancy as aforesaid: And also to Seize and take into his and their hands two parts, in three parts to be divided of all Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Leases, Farms, and Copy-held Lands, whereof any such Popish Recusant convict, or any in trust for him or her, shall be Seized, or possessed at the time of such conviction, or at any time after, and the same to Possesse, and Enjoy to the use of the Commonwealth, untill such person so Convict shall conform by taking the said Oath: Saving to his Highnesse the Lord Protector, and his Successors, and every person and persons, Bodies politique and corporate, their Heirs and successours, (or other then such persons so Convict, and his, and her Heirs, and all claiming to his, her, or their use, or in trust for him, her, or them) all and all manner of Leases, Rents, Conditions, and other Rights and Titles whatsoever, had, made, or done lawfully, and without Fraud, or Covin before such Conviction: Provided always, That His said Highnesse the Lord Protector,

rector, or His Successours, shal not seize, or take into his his or their two third parts, (but leave unto such person so convict) his or her Mansion house, as part of his, or her third part.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every such Conviction of any person for Popish Recusancy, shall, from the Iustices before whom the Record of such Conviction shal remain, be Estreated and Certified into His Highnesse Court of Exchequer, before the end of the Term next ensuing such Conviction, in such convenient certainty, for time and other circumstances, that the said Court of Exchequer may thereupon award Proces for Seizure of two third parts of all Lands, Tenements, Leafes, Farmes, Copie-hold Lands, Goods and Chattels of every person so convict as aforesaid. And that every such Certificate and Estreat, shall be entred upon the Doequet in the Record, in the Treasurers Remembrancers Office, and from thence to be delivered to the Clerk of the Extracts, and by him immediarly to the Clerk of the Pipe, there to be Enrolled, & from thence returned to the said Clerk of the Extracts, to remain in safe custody for a Compt-Roll for his Highness service, according to the course of the Court of Exchequer: And that Schedules thereof be forthwith made from the said great Roll, for Procefs, to be thereupon issued by Commission, or otherwise, by the said Remembrancer, to enquire of & seize two third parts of all the Lands, Tenements, Goods and Chattels, of every such person so convict as aforesaid; And that upon return thereof, every Inquisition & Seizure shall be enrolled in the Office of the said Remembrancer, and from thence charged in the said great Roll, and from thence forthwith scheduled and delivered unto the Auditors of the respective Counties, to the end his Highnesse may be duly answered upon accompt by his receivers of such Counties, of all such two third parts of all such Lands, Tenements, Goods and Chattels, And that every Discharge hereafter

after to be made by the said Court of Exchequer, of any Lands Tenements, Goods or Chattels, so charged in the said great Roll, and from thence scheduled and delivered unto the said Auditors as aforesaid, shall be entred upon Record in the said great Roll, and be from thence certified unto every such respective Auditor as formerly.

Provided alwayes, and by it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person Convict of Popish Recusancy as aforesaid, shall at any time come before the Iustices of assize and Goal-delivery, or before the Iustices of the Peace in their Quarter-Sessions for such County, Division, Limit or Liberty respectively, where such person was convict, and in open Session take and subscribe the said Oath, such Iustices shall forthwith record such Submission, and certifie the same into his Highnesse Court of Exchequer, and then upon such Certificate recorded, such person so submitting and certified, shall be freed and discharged of and from all Seizures, Penalties, and Losses, which the same person might otherwise sustain & bear, for, or by reason of such persons conviction for Popish Recusancy; And if any such person, so convict as aforesaid, or any other person, whose Estate is now under Seizure or sequestration for Popish Recusancy, shall at any time come before the Barons of the Exchequer, and in open Court take & subscribe the said Oath, (Which Oath the Barons are hereby impowred to administer) Then upon such Submission recorded, the Person so submitting shall forthwith be freed & discharged, of and from all Seizures, Sequestrations, Penalties and Losses, which the same Person might otherwise sustain & bear, for or by reason of such persons Conviction or Sequestration for Popish Recusancy.

Provided also, And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person being so convict or sequestred for Popish Recusancy, as aforesaid, shall happen to dye, his

or her Heir, being of the full age of sixteen years, then such Heir shall, from the decease of such person, quietly & peaceably Have, Hold, Possesse and Enjoy the Estate of such person, and the Rents and Profits thereof, Freed and Discharged of and from all Seizures, Sequestrations, Penalties and Losses, which the same Heir might otherwise sustain & bear, for, or by reason of such his or her Ancestors Popish Recusancy; So that such Heir do or shall before the end of the Term, next after the decease of such Ancestors, come before the Barons of Exchequer, & in open Court take and subscribe the said Oath; But if such Heir do not, or shall not then come before the said Barons, and take & subscribe the said Oath, as aforesaid; Then such Heir shall have, hold, possesse and enjoy such Estate, and the Rents and Profits thereof freed and discharged as aforesaid, from such time only as such Heir shall come before the said Barons, and take and subscribe the said Oath as aforesaid, and not before.

And if the Heir of any such Person so Convicted or Sequestered for Popish Recusancy, shall happen to be within the age of sixteen years, at the time of the death of such his or her Ancestors, Then the Guardian or Guardians of such Heir, shall, from the decease of such Ancestor, be permitted quietly and peaceably to receive the Rents and Profits of such Estate; so that such Guardian and Guardians, being approved or appointed by the said Barons, do give security in the said Court of Exchequer, to account once every year, before one of Auditors of the said Court, for such Rents and Profits, over and above such yearly allowance, for the Education and Maintenance of such Heir, as the said Barons shall appoint, and to pay the residue of such Rents and Profits, over & above such allowances, unto such Heir; So that such Heir do, and shall before the end of the Terme next after such Heir shall attain the full age of sixteen years come before the

said Barons of the Exchequer and in open Court take and subscribe the said Oath; And if such Heir do not, or shall not then come before the said Barons, and subscribe the Oath as aforesaid, Then forthwith to pay the Residue of such Rents and Profits into the Receipt of the Exchequer, to the use of his Highnesse and the Commonwealth.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if such Heir do or shall, before the said end of such next Term, come before the said Barons, and in open Court take and subscribe the said Oath, then such Guardian and Guardians shall pay unto such Heir, such Residue of the said Rents & Profits, And such Heir shall have, hold, possesse and enjoy the same, and also the Estate of such his, or her Ancestor, freed and discharged of and from all Seizures, Sequestrations, Penalties and Losses, which otherwise such Heir might sustain and bear, for or by reason of such Ancestors Popish Recusancy, But if such Heir do not, or shall not, before the end of such next Term, come before the said Barons, and take and subscribe the said Oath, then such Guardian and Guardians shall forthwith pay the Residue of such Rents and Profits into the Receipt of the Exchequer, to the use of his Highnesse & the Commonwealth; and such Heir shall have, hold, possesse and enjoy the Estate of such Ancestor, and the Rents and Profits thereof, freed and discharged as aforesaid, from such time only, as such Heir shall come before the said Barons, and take and subscribe the said Oath, and not before.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person whose Estate now is, or hereafter shall be seized or sequestred for Popish Recusancy, hath given, conveyed, or any wayes settled, or shall hereafter give, convey, or any wayes settle by deed, will or otherwayes, all, or any part of such Estate so seized or sequestred as aforesaid,

foreſaid, or any Rent, Sum of Money, or other profit out of the ſame, or any part thereof, to, or for the uſe, benefit or behoof of the Wife, Child, or Children, of any ſuch perſon as ſhall happen to die, ſuch Wife, Child, & Children reſpectively, being of the full age of ſixteen years. Then ſuch Wife, Child, and Children reſpectively ſhall, from the deceaſe of ſuch perſon, have, hold, poſſeſſe, and enjoy the full benefit of ſuch Gift, Conveyance, or other ſettlement, freed, and diſcharged of and from all ſuch Seizures, Sequeſtrations, Penalties and Loſſes, for, or by reaſon of the Popiſh Recuſancy of ſuch perſon ſo dying, ſo that ſuch Wife, Child, and Children reſpectively, do, and ſhall before the end of the Term next after the deceaſe of ſuch perſon, come before the ſaid Barons of the Exchequer, & in open Court take and ſubſcribe the ſaid Oath, but if ſuch Wife, Child or Children reſpectively, do not or ſhall not then come before the ſaid Barons, and take and ſubſcribe the ſaid Oath as aforeſaid, Then ſuch Wife, Child, and Children ſhall have, hold, poſſeſſe and enjoy, the full benefit of ſuch Gift, Conveyance or other Settlement, freed and diſcharged as aforeſaid, from ſuch time only as ſuch Wife, Child and Children reſpectively, ſhall come before the ſaid Barons & take and ſubſcribe the ſaid Oath as aforeſaid, and not before; And if ſuch Wife, Child or Children ſhall happen to be within the age of ſixteen years, at the time of the death of any ſuch perſon, then the Guardian or Guardians, of ſuch Wife, Child, or Children reſpectively, ſhall, from the deceaſe of ſuch perſon, be permitted to take the full benefit of ſuch Gift, Conveyance, or other ſettlement, ſo that ſuch Guardian and Guardians reſpectively, being approved or appointed by the ſaid Barons, do give Security in the ſaid Court of Exchequer, to account once every year, before one of the Auditors of the ſaid Court, for all ſuch Rents,
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profits, or sums of money, as such Guardian & Guardians respectively, shall or might any wayes receive over & above such yearly Allowances, as the Barons of the Exchequer shall appoint for the Education and maintenance of any such Wife, Child and Children respectively, and to pay the Residue of such Rents, Profits, and Sums of money, over and above such Allowances, unto such Wife, child and children respectively; so that such Wife, Child & Children respectively, do and shall, before the end of the Term next after such Wife, Child and Children shall attain their respective Ages of sixteen years, come before the said Barons of the Exchequer, and in open Court take and subscribe the said Oath; But if such Wife, Child and Children respectively, shall not then come before the said Barons, and take and subscribe the said Oath as aforesaid, then such Guardian and Guardians respectively, forthwith to pay the residue of such Rents, Profits and sums of Money, into the Receipt of the Exchequer, to the use of his Highnesse the Lord Protector, and the Commonwealth.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if such Wife, Child and Children respectively, do & shall, before the end of such next Term, come before the said Barons, & take and subscribe the said Oath as aforesaid, then such Guardian and Guardians shall pay unto such Wife, Child and Children respectively, such Residue of the said Rents, Profits and sums of Money, and such Wife, Child and Children shall have hold, possesse and enjoy the same, and also the full benefit of such Gift, Conveyance, and other Settlement, Freed & Discharged of and from all Seizures, Sequestrations, Penalties and Losses, for or by reason of the Popish Recusancy of such Person so dying as aforesaid; But if such Wife, Child, or Children respectively, shall not then come before the Barons, and take and subscribe

scribe the said Oath as aforesaid, then such Guardian and Guardians shall pay such Residue of such Rents, Profits and Sums of Money respectively, into the Receipts of the Exchequer to the use of His Highnesse the Lord Protector and the Commonwealth, and such Wife, Child and Children shall have, hold, possesse and enjoy the benefit of such Gift, Conveyance, or other Settlement, Free and Discharged as aforesaid, from such time only as such Wife, Child & Children respectively shall come before the said Barons, and take and subscribe the said Oath, as aforesaid, and not before.

And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardian & Guardians shal, for the making of any such account as aforesaid, be bound to attend any such Auditor at his Office or Dwelling House, But such Auditor, is hereby required to take such Account in his Circuit, in the County where such Estate doth lye, and not to receive any greater or other Fees for the same, then shall be appointed by the commissioners of the Treasury for the time being, or any two or more of them, or by the Treasurer Chancellor, or under Treasurer of the Exchequer for the time being, or any two or more of them.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid That if any Person being no Popish Recusant, convicted or requested for Popish Recusancy, shall marry or take to Wife, any woman that he shall know to be a Popish Recusant convicted, then upon Information exhibited and proof thereof made in the Court of Exchequer, He shall be taken and adjudged a Popish Recusant convicted to all intents and purposes whatsoever, and shall be subjected & liable in his own particular Estate, real and personal to such Seizure and Possession as any other Popish Recusant convicted & shall continue so subject and liable, until he shall come before the said Barons of the Exchequer, and in open Court Take and subscribe the said Oath,

and no longer.

And bee it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no *Certiorari*, shall upon any Pretence or Suggestion whatsoever, be granted by the Court of Upper Bench, or by any other Court, to remove any such Presentment or Conviction, for Popish Recusancy as aforesaid, neither shall any such presentment or conviction, or any thing touching the same, be reversed for any Error, or any other matter or thing whatsoever, but every such Presentment and Conviction shall be, and remain in good force, untill such person be convicted, or this or her Heirs shall submit and take, and subscribe the said Oath as aforesaid.

Provided alwaies, and be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons, shall knowingly hold, possess, or own any Estate, real or personal, in trust for, or to the use of any Recusant, now under Sequestration, or which shall hereafter be convicted by vertue of this Act, or shall knowingly suffer, his, her, or their Name or Names to be used in any Deed or Conveyance, for the concealing any such Estate, which of right ought to be Seized or Sequestred to the use of his Highnesse the Lord Protector, and shall not within three moneths after notice given to him, or Procces left at his usual place of abode, from the Lord Treasurer, or Lords Commissioners of his Highnesse Treasury, or Barons of the Exchequer, that he is charged or Questioned for the concealing such Trust or Trusts, make discovery hereof, That then every such person or persons shall forfeit for such his concealment, to the value of the third part of such Estate so concealed, the one Moiety to his Highnesse the Lord Protector, and the other Moiety to the Informer, as is provided in his Highnesse Court of Buckenbury, By Bill of Information, wherein no Enjoyment, Protection or Wages of Law shall be allowed.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if the Iustices of Peace for any County, Division, Limit or Liberty, or two or more of them, shall not according to the true intent and meaning of this Act, issue their warrants, to all Church-Wardens and Constables, requiring them to make their Presentment as aforesaid, or shall not according to the true intent and meaning of this Act, issue their Warrants unto the Constables, to summon such Persons, so presented, to make their appearance, & take the said Oath aforesaid, or shall not deliver such presentment at the next Quarter-Sessions as aforesaid, Then every such Justice of Peace shall forfeit the sum of Twenty pounds; And if any such Church-Warden or Constable shall refuse or neglect to make such Presentment as aforesaid, Then such Constables, for every such offence, shall forfeit the sum of ten pounds; And if the Clerk of the Assize or Clerk of the Peace, shall not duly record every such presentment, Warrant of Summons, and the Execution thereof, and that without paying any Fees, they shall forfeit for every such offence, the sum of Twenty pounds; and that one Moiety of all sums of money, so as above, to be forfeited by any Justice of Peace, Church-warden, Constable, Clerk of the Assize, or Clerk of the Peace respectively, shall be to the use of the poor of such County, Division, Limit or Liberty respectively, where any such sum of Money shall be forfeited, & the other Moiety to such Person or persons as shall sue for the same, in his Highness Court of Exchequer, by Bill or Information, wherein no Escoign, Protection, or Wager of Law shall be allowed.

Provided also, And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That where any Estate, Thane or shall be Seised for the Recusancy of any Person, shall defend or come to any known Proceedings in such case, He or she to whom such

such Estate shall descend or come, shall repair to the Quarter-Sessions of the Peace for that County, where He or She liveth, & there make it appear to the Court, That he or She is a Protestant; upon Certificate thereof under the Hands and Seals of the major part of the Iustices there present, to the Barons of the Exchequer (the Charge and Title to such Estate being made to appear to the said Barons.) Such Person or Persons shall have his Estate discharged without paying Fees; Any thing herein, or any other Law contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons that now is sequestred or convicted for Recusancy, or that at any time hereafter shall be convicted for Recusancy, shall be admitted to take the aforesaid Oath of Abjuration, unless such Person or Persons so convicted, shall make it appear to the Iustices of Peace, before whom such Oath of Abjuration is to be taken, by the Testimony of two sufficient Witnesses, at the least upon Oath, which said Oath, the said Iustices have hereby power to administer, That he or they have for six months before that time, ordinarily and frequently upon the Lords dayes, repaired to some Church or Chappell, or to some Congregationall and other Christian meeting, allowed by the publique Authority of these Nations, And there hath heard the Word of God preached and taught, as is hereby directed, and provided nevertheless, And it is hereby Enacted, That if any Person or Persons that is or shall be admitted for Recusancy, after such Oath taken, as is hereby directed, shall afterwards fall into Relapse, or become a Popish Recusant again, or be suspected to become a Popish Recusant again, and be thereof Presented and Convicted as aforesaid, That then every such person or persons, shall lose all such benefits as He or She might otherwise, by virtue of this Act, have

or enjoy by reason of His or her taking the said Oath according to this present Act, And shall thereupon stand in such Plight, Condition and Degree, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, as though such Oath had never been taken, untill He or She (upon due Summons, and proceedings in that behalf to be had) shall again take the said Oath in such manner, as before by this present Act is limited and appointed.

And it is hereby further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall not bee lawfull for any Subject of this Commonwealth, (other then the House-hold-Servants that shall come over with any Embassador or Agent) at any time to be present at Masse, at the House of any such Embassador or Agent, or any other place whatsoever, upon pain and penalty of One hundreth pounds, and Imprisonment by the space of six Moneths; the one moiety of the said Forefeiture to be to the use of his Highnesse the Lord Protector and his Successors, and the other moiety to the Informer; to be recovered by Action, Bill, Plaint, Suit or Information in any Court of Record, in which no Essoyn, Protection, or Wager of Law shall be allowed.

October Quarter-Sessions 1657.

Ordere*d* that this Act of Parliament be forthwith Re-printed for the benefit of the Shire of Aberdene.

Ordered by the Court
CHRISTOPHER POWELL,
Cler. of the Peace.

